

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 130298

O R 302300Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9276

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 6966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, DR. HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN CHIEF OF MISSION MEETING AND US-BELGIAN  
RELATIONS

REF: STATE 231853

1. MY ASSESSMENT OF OCTOBER 10 STANDS, WITH THE FOLLOWING  
ADDITIONAL COMMENT, KEEPING IN MIND OUR TWO PAGE LIMIT:

2. THE MIDDLE EAST EVENTS PLACED NEW STRAINS ON ALL MAJOR  
ASPECTS OF BELGIAN FOREIGN POLICY. IN RELATIONS WITH US,  
BELGIUM IS, FOR EXAMPLE, CAUGHT BETWEEN OUR NEED FOR  
UNRESTRICTED TRANSIT OF MILITARY MATERIEL FOR ISRAEL AND THE  
THREAT OF ARAB RETALIATION, COMPLICATED BY PRESSURES TO ALIGN  
HERSELF WITH EC-9 POLICIES.

3. WITH A REFINING INDUSTRY HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON ROTTERDAM  
FACILITIES, BUILT TO SERVE A EUROPEAN REGIONAL MARKET,  
AND BOUND TO SUFFER IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO IMPORT SHORTFALLS,  
BELGIUM IS MADE TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF ARAB DISCRIMINA-  
TION AGAINST THE DUTCH, REGARDLESS OF HER ACCOMMODATIONS TO  
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ARAB THREATS. THIS SITUATION CAUSES PAINFUL STRAINS WITHIN

THE IMMEDIATE BENELUX FAMILY.

4. THE NET EFFECT, WELL ILLUSTRATED BY FOREIGN MINISTER VAN  
ELSLAND'S POLICY STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 27, HAS BEEN THE  
BELGIANS' DRIFT INTO CLOSER ALIGNMENT WITH FRENCH POSITIONS.  
THIS, IN TURN, MAKES IT ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT FOR BELGIUM TO  
RECONCILE THE IMPERATIVES OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION WITH THOSE  
OF ATLANTIC PARTNER SHIP.

5. FINALLY, THESE RECENT EVENTS HAVE LEFT THE BELGIANS MORE  
SENSITIVE AND MORE RECEPTIVE THAN EVER TO CONSULTATIONS WITH  
US, PARTICULARLY IN THE HOPE OF FINDING A EUROPEAN  
ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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